DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 451 262 UD 033 997

AUTHOR Coles, H. Brent
TITLE Priorities for "The New American City." Mayors 2001.
INSTITUTION United States Conference of Mayors, Washington, DC.
PUB DATE 2001-00-00
NOTE 25p.
AVAILABLE FROM United States Conference of Mayors, 1620 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006. Tel: 202-293-7330; Fax: 202-293-2352; Web site: http://www.usmayors.org.
PUB TYPE Reports - Descriptive (141)
EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Early Childhood Education; Economic Development; Educational Technology; Elementary Secondary Education; Federal Government; Government Role; Housing Needs; *Metropolitan Areas; *Neighborhoods; Parks; Safety; Transportation; *Urban Areas; Youth Programs
IDENTIFIERS Access to Technology; Drug Policy; Environmental Policy

ABSTRACT

This report focuses on the scope and potential of the New American City, a term employed by entrepreneurial mayors who have forged partnerships with businesses, nonprofits, and other governmental entities to improve the quality of life in their cities. U.S. mayors believe that it is possible to strengthen and maintain the growth of the New American City by focusing on four areas: the well-being of the family; the livability of communities and neighborhoods; the education the workforce for the new millennium; and new infrastructure to connect metro economies. The U.S. Conference of Mayors established 10 priorities for working with the new administration and the 107th Congress as of 2001: drug control/public safety; rail system restoration; smart growth (housing, brownfields, transportation, infrastructure, and environment); smart cities/technology infrastructure/digital divide; human dignity/diversity; youth, education, and families in America's cities; technology in schools; workforce technology training; parks, open space, and arts; and airport enhancements. (SM)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.

Priorities for "The New American City." Mayors 2001.

ED 451 262

H. Brent Coles

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE AND DISSEMINATE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

J. Crigger

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

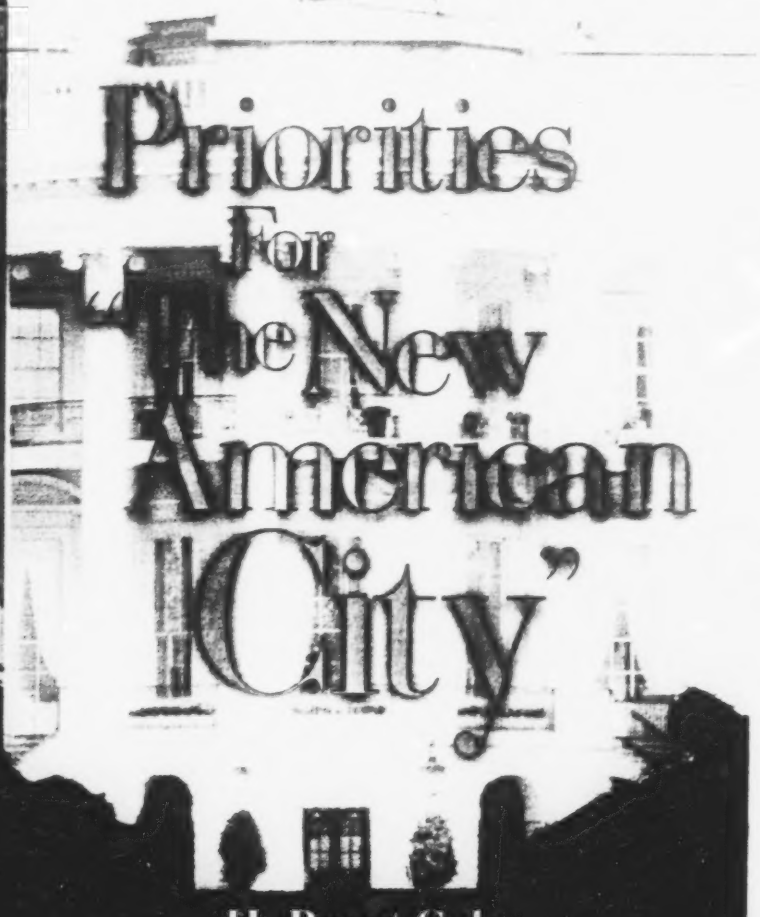
UD033997

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

MAYORS 2001

The United States Conference of Mayors

Priorities For The New American "City"



H. Brent Coles

Mayor of Boise, Idaho

President, The United States Conference of Mayors

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE
OF MAYORS

H. Brent Coles
Mayor of Boise
President

Marc H. Morial
Mayor of New Orleans
Vice President

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston
Chair, Advisory Board

J. Thomas Cochran
Executive Director

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Statement by H. Brent Coles
Mayor of Boise, Idaho
President, *The United States Conference of Mayors*

Here in the year 2001, America's families, America's children live in cities. As this great nation has grown, Americans have flocked to cities in great numbers; until today, more than 80 percent of Americans live in a city. Cities are where we build parks and libraries and schools. Cities are where we find the jobs that allow us to support our families. Cities are what we call home. The good news is that the New American City is thriving.

Violent crime remains at a 20-year low. The latest Census Bureau figures show that poverty rates are also at a 20-year low, with central cities accounting for most of the decline. Welfare rolls have been drastically reduced. Education reforms are being implemented in city after city, with mayors playing an increasingly strong role in this critical area.

The New American City is a place where entrepreneurial mayors have forged partnerships with business and non-profits and other governmental entities to improve the quality of life for everyone living in their city. The New American City is a place where we have laid aside pointless partisanship and needless division to solve problems that once were thought hopeless.

This era of cooperation has benefitted the entire country. A 2000 study prepared by Standard and

MAYORS 2001

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Poor's DRI and commissioned by The U.S. Conference of Mayors and National Association of Counties demonstrates the economic importance of cities. The study, entitled *U.S. Metro Economies: The Engines of America's Growth*, found that:

- In 1999, U.S. metro economies accounted for 85 percent of Gross Domestic Product; 84 percent of national employment; and 88 percent of total labor income.
- From 1992 to 1999, 16.8 million new jobs were created in metropolitan areas, 86.9 percent of the national increase of 19.8 million. During the same period, metro areas contributed over $2.4 trillion to the growth in gross domestic product, representing 86 percent of the national gain.
- If city/county metro economies were ranked with nations, 48 of the world's largest 100 economies would be U.S. metro areas.
- In 41 states, metro economies contribute over half of the state's gross product; while in 26, metro economies contribute over three-quarters of the state's gross product.
- Two of the fastest-growing segments of the U.S. economy, high-tech and business services, are almost entirely concentrated within metro areas. In 1999, metro areas accounted for 93 percent of new business services employment and 93 percent of high-tech employment.

Today in cities across America, mayors and business leaders are active partners in promoting economic development, job creation and

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

international trade. Mayors, as CEO's of cities, have taken leadership roles as advocates for business in the global marketplace.

Yet, despite our successes, we cannot afford to be complacent. The social and economic prosperity of the nation depends, in large part, on our continued willingness to cooperate and strengthen cities. Mayors recognize the value of the federal government as a partner in this effort and will continue to seek new ways to assure that federal programs offer the flexibility to meet the needs of individual cities without cumbersome restrictions and expensive regulatory requirements.

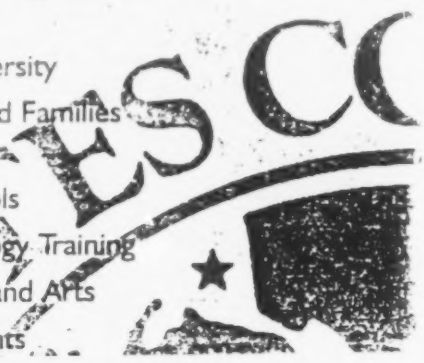
For more than a year, mayors have worked closely with the policy staff of both the Bush and Gore campaigns in an effort to build common ground. President-elect George W. Bush addressed The U.S. Conference of Mayors on June 12, 2000 and unveiled "An Urban Agenda for the 21st Century." His comments reflected many of the mayors' priorities. He expressed a willingness to listen to the nation's mayors and build a strong and meaningful partnership with us.

Mayors believe we can strengthen and maintain the growth of the New American City by focusing our attention on four areas: 1) **The well-being of the family;** 2) **The livability of the communities and neighborhoods in which we live and work;** 3) **Educating the workforce of the new millennium; and** 4) **Building infrastructure to connect metro economies.**

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Within this context, The U.S. Conference of Mayors established ten priorities for our work with the new Administration, as well as the 107th Congress. More than 50 mayors met in teams throughout the summer and fall of 2000 to define and refine these priorities. Our priorities are:

- Drug Control/Public Safety
- Rail System Restoration
- Smart Growth (Housing, Brownfields, Transportation, Infrastructure, Environment)
- Smart Cities/Technology Infrastructure/Digital Divide
- Human Dignity/Diversity
- Youth, Education and Families in America's Cities
- Technology in Schools
- Workforce Technology Training
- Parks, Open Space and Arts
- Airport Enhancements



This is an agenda which encompasses the full scope and potential of the New American City. The nation's mayors look forward to working closely with President George W. Bush, all members of his Administration, the new Congress, corporate leaders, and faith-based, community and charitable organizations across the nation in our combined effort to build stronger communities and maintain the momentum of this nation's economic prosperity and growth.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Drug Control/Public Safety

DRUGS IN PRISONS The federal government must adopt a strategy to reduce the availability of drugs in federal and federally supported prisons and jails, and ensure that adequate treatment exists for prisoners prior to their release and while on probation or parole. In addition, every federal prisoner must be required to pass a drug test prior to release. States should be encouraged to adopt similar policies.

TREATMENT A national, comprehensive drug prevention and treatment policy must be established that significantly increases resources and provides mayors with an oversight role in directing the flow of treatment resources at the local level.

BORDER CONTROL METHAMPHETAMINE

The federal government must protect our national security–as is its constitutional mandate–through a major increase in efforts to stop drugs from entering this nation from across federally-controlled borders, and a focused attack on illegal drugs being produced within our borders such as methamphetamine.

MAYORS 2001

MAYORS 2001

FEDERAL AUDIT A complete audit must be conducted to identify *all* federal resources currently being spent on drug control related programs, where those resources are directed, and how effectively those resources are being used.

LOCAL BLOCK GRANT A new crime block grant should be created to continue support for innovative community policing strategies. The local government block grant should provide maximum flexibility for initiatives such as police hiring and overtime, law enforcement technology, crime prevention, drug courts and drug treatment provided in cooperation with law enforcement, and promoting local collaboration between law enforcement agencies.

GUN SAFETY The federal government must assist local and state efforts to reduce gun violence by: fully enforcing existing laws; increasing support for federal law enforcement agencies responsible for enforcing gun laws; and enacting a package of meaningful gun safety laws.

Rail System Restoration

INTER-CITY RAIL The nation's inter-city passenger rail network must be fortified and expanded, focusing on investments in high-speed rail corridors and the expansion of service on non-high speed routes.

METROPOLITAN RAIL PROJECTS Accelerated investment is needed in the many rail projects (e.g., heavy rail, light rail, and commuter rail) in metropolitan areas and throughout the nation to ensure these critical transportation assets are deployed more expeditiously, helping our nation's metropolitan regions tap the vast potential of these projects.

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION The federal government must enact tax incentives and pursue other measures to stimulate increased private sector participation in improving crossings, rail stations, and rail infrastructure, acquiring rolling stock, offering commuter benefits, and transit-oriented development in support of passenger rail services.

NATIONAL RAIL POLICY Greater emphasis must be given to an overall national rail policy, which should include as initial commitments: enactment of high speed rail bond legislation based upon S.1900 from the 106th Congress; and new funding for fixed guideway projects.

advanced bus technology, transit and community revitalization efforts, station revitalization, and rural access.

Smart Growth

HOUSING Affordability, accessibility, and preservation should be the principal goals of a national housing policy. Existing, successful HUD homeownership programs should be supported. A Community Housing Investment Trust Fund should be created using the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) Fund surplus to build and preserve permanent housing for low-income families and individuals; serve as a source of flexible money; make existing HUD resources work better; provide needed funds for local housing development initiatives; and encourage private sector investment.

BROWNFIELDS Bipartisan legislation, building upon the Brownfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration Act of 2000 (S.2700 from the 106th Congress), should be enacted early in the 107th Congress providing liability protection for innocent parties and resources to help communities assess, cleanup, and redevelop these sites.

12

TRANSPORTATION National transportation policy should reward smart growth, emphasize investment in existing infrastructure (particularly rail), and improve transit access overall. Establishment of national goals to increase transit ridership; more effective use of gas tax dollars to benefit transportation alternatives and a more seamless transportation system; and incentives to encourage regional cooperation should also be developed.

INFRASTRUCTURE All federal mandates should be funded; an infrastructure bank should be created which would provide revolving loans and other assistance to developed areas to replace and upgrade infrastructure; and better (longer life) streets should be developed.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY/ENVIRONMENTAL BLOCK GRANT Full funding should be available for any new environmental mandates on cities. An environmental block grant program, similar to the Community Development Block Grant Program, should be created to support local/regional compliance strategies. A more comprehensive environmental policy for air, land, and water emphasizing regional adaptation and flexibility should be established. Uniform national non-point compliance standards should be

established. Tax incentives for environmental compliance (land use, infrastructure, air) should be provided. Regional recycling of solid waste disposal should be encouraged. A federal plan on solid waste disposal should be developed.

Smart Cities/Technology Infrastructure/Digital Divide

THE NEW ECONOMY Local communities must continue to have home rule authority in managing their rights-of-way, including the ability to charge fair market rent for using public property. Federal policy should allow for more efficient use of existing federal rights-of-way to expand investment opportunities for technology infrastructure. Cities should work with the federal government to encourage and foster policies that provide flexibility to use the latest technology to improve the way cities conduct business and provide public services.

DIGITAL GOVERNMENT Federal policy should encourage innovations in technology and better coordination of information systems at the federal level to improve communication between cities, other levels of governments, the private sector, and the general public.

INTERNET TAX POLICY Technology must be used to simplify the collection of state and local taxes on Internet sales, and allow local governments to maintain control over local option taxes on remote sales.

DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY/DIVIDE Federal investment in educational initiatives must be increased to ensure all Americans benefit from 21st Century technologies and there is universal access for all Americans to the Internet and related technologies. Continued support must be provided for the e-rate to ensure that all schools and libraries have access to the telecommunications infrastructure. Technology should be utilized in public housing to provide skills training, access to educational opportunities, and job linkages.

PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT The new Administration should hold a Presidential Summit on the Digital Divide for mayors, the private sector, educators, non-profits, and faith-based organizations within 120 days of inauguration, with follow-up by a White House Task Force, to ensure that the recommendations made during the Summit are implemented.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS Federal investments in university-based public and private partnerships in research and development projects to promote innovations in technology should be increased. Research and development tax credits legislation should be made permanent. The tax code should be examined to make sure that it encourages new technology investment.

Human Dignity/Diversity

A NATIONAL CODE OF CONDUCT Mayors should work with the new Administration to heighten the nation's awareness of human dignity, civility, cultural/ethnic diversity, and understanding one another. The Administration must actively oppose, in word and deed, all manifestations of bigotry and encourage the development of programs and best practice models which foster a climate of respect and appreciation for diversity, and promote better race relations and intergroup cooperation among all people.

Youth, Education and Families in America's Cities

INVESTING IN WORKING FAMILIES Expanded investment is needed in workforce development programs and other critical resources, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, to ensure a quality of life above the poverty level for working families, and to help guarantee the success of their children in school.

IMPROVING PUBLIC SCHOOLS The new Administration, Congress, and the states must work with mayors to ensure that there are no failing schools in any district, in any city in America, and that all children, regardless of socioeconomic status, are educated to their full potential. To help accomplish this, incentives should be provided to create a large pool of new, credentialed educators.

READING The nation must ensure that all children learn to read by grade 3, so that they will be ready and able to 'read to learn' thereafter.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION We must develop a national initiative to increase the availability of quality, affordable, early childhood education programs, such as Head Start, Success by 6, and other quality pre-school experiences, to ensure that all our children are prepared to enter school.

MAYORS 2001

BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS Expanded before-school and after-school nutrition, education, and extracurricular programs for the children of parents who work, as well as safe weekend and summertime programs, must be supported.

ASSETS MODELS Assets models should be utilized to identify the resources young people need in order to make good life decisions, to help identify at-risk youth, and to develop strategies for them. Programs that provide parents with training in parenting skills must be supported; we must also improve and expand parent referrals to other available services to support their children's education.

ARTS, MUSIC, AND SPORTS IN SCHOOL

The federal government should support public/private partnerships that promote arts, music, and sports programs in schools, as well as other extracurricular activities that increase learning, build character and foster leadership skills, promote positive behaviors, and help reduce truancy among our youth.

Technology in Schools

E-RATE Full funding of the e-rate must be supported to connect classrooms in public schools to the Internet and to ensure that all public schools integrate the use of technology and help students learn challenging content so that all children are technologically literate.

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS

The Administration should promote partnerships between the private sector, universities, other community organizations, and public schools to ensure that modern, up-to-date computers, high-quality educational software, and affordable connections to the Internet are available in every classroom.

SCHOOL MODERNIZATION The Administration should support funding for school renovation, construction, and maintenance. Federal policies should allow leveraging of local investment to enable students in all schools to participate fully in the latest technology in a positive learning environment.

TEACHER DEVELOPMENT Ongoing professional development for all teachers should be supported; and we must encourage higher education institutions to provide teacher training and to help in developing technology-based curriculum for schools.

MAYORS 2001

PRIVATE INVESTMENT To stimulate private sector investment in schools, federal policies should identify and create tools such as tax credits (as opposed to current tax deductions) for donations of computers and training, and create set-asides and/or incentives for federal grant applications that include technology as a major component.

TRAINING FOR THE MODERN ECONOMY Strong business-education partnerships should be developed to ensure that technology is incorporated into training and school-to-career activities that relate directly to real jobs, especially jobs that support and repair networks, workstations, and software.

COMMUNITY TECHNOLOGY CENTERS Expanded funding is needed for community technology centers in low-income communities to provide computer access and training for low-income children and adults.

Workforce Technology Training

TECHNOLOGY AND THE WORKFORCE Workforce development tools, including flexible block grant funding directly to local governments, should be used to partner with the private sector to address the skills gap and meet the demand for high-tech skills, re-train America's workforce, develop career paths

to prepare minorities and low-income workers for the Information Technology (IT) workforce, link workers to regional jobs, and develop untapped pools of workers.

YOUTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, SUMMER AND OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH TRAINING The new Administration should: continue the long term commitment to a strong summer jobs program; invest in school-to-career programs; expand the out-of-school youth initiative; and increase funding to at least $2 billion under the Workforce Investment Act for all youth activities, including summer youth employment. In particular, the needs of minority teens with high unemployment rates and out-of-school youth should be addressed.

TRANSITION FROM WELFARE TO WORK, CONTINUED Skills development must be provided for the hardest to serve welfare recipients and working families who are concentrated in cities. Direct funding should be provided to cities as part of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) reauthorization. Continue the transition from welfare to work by investing in childcare, health care, food support, and transportation assistance, and insist that states commit existing federal resources to these priorities.

MAYORS 2001

Parks, Open Space and Arts

PARKS The Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Program should be fully funded. The $1.2 billion from off-shore oil and gas royalties should be equally divided between the federal, state, and local governments. The Department of Housing and Urban Development should administer the urban parks component.

OPEN SPACE TAX INCENTIVES Special tax incentives and credits should be established to help acquire and protect local open spaces.

YOUTH RECREATION The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports should be reinvigorated. A national policy on youth fitness and recreation needs to be developed with recommendations for actions on the federal, state, and local levels. Sporting goods manufacturers, sporting associations, major sports leagues, and major retailers should be encouraged to support and promote more youth recreation programs.

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION A national policy on alternative transportation, such as trails and bike paths, should be developed.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

THE ARTS A Coordinating Council on Culture should be established composed of the National Endowments for the Arts, Humanities, and Museums and Library Services to coordinate the work of these agencies and to give their activities more prominence. A viable endowment for the National Endowment for the Arts is needed to eliminate the annual budget fights for the NEA and to allow for the NEA to maximize private sector funding. In addition, tax incentives should be given to allow for greater individual and corporate giving for major art projects and facilities.

RUNAWAY PRODUCTION COSTS The new Administration and Congress must recognize the need for action at the federal level to allow for the film industry to compete on a level playing field with their foreign counterparts. There should be a special liaison within the Department of Commerce, or other federal agency, to facilitate and advocate on behalf of the motion picture industry to help stem the tide of runaway production outside of the United States.

MAYORS 2001

Airport Enhancements

IMPLEMENT AIR-21 Federal policy must preserve and expand upon the airport and aviation system commitments made under "AIR-21" in the upcoming renewal of the nation's aviation investment law.

EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE Existing airport infrastructure must be supported to meet the nation's immediate and growing air passenger and cargo needs.

UNDER-SERVED AREAS Federal policy should support new incentives like those provided in AIR-21 that stimulate new air service for under-served areas, providing congestion relief and air travel options.

Tom Cochran

Executive Director
The United States
Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: (202) 293-7330
Fax: (202) 293-2352
usmayors.org

BEST COPY AVAILABLE